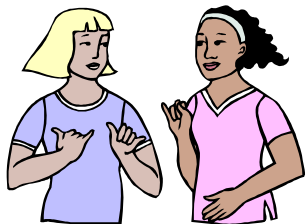


## Could your child or student be considered Deafblind?

A child who perhaps has a combination of the following characteristics:

- Responds to environmental sounds, but not to speech
- Bumps into or trips over objects
- Needs time to adjust when going from brightly to dimly lit areas
- Has difficulty seeing objects unless they have high color contrast
- Does not respond consistently to sounds or visual images
- Has difficulty knowing where sounds are coming from
- Has a history of chronic ear infections or upper respiratory infections
- Moves his/her head or eyes into unusual positions, instead of looking directly at objects
- Is unable to imitate sounds or visual tasks
- Communicates by biting or hitting self or others, throwing objects, or screaming



*For Questions contact:*

Becky Hovde, WDBTAP Project Assistant

608-356-2023

rebecca.hovde@wesp-dhh.wi.gov

Wisconsin DeafBlind Technical Assistance Project

124 2nd Street Suite 11

Baraboo WI 53913



WDBTAP Staff

**Marcy Dicker**

Project Director

**Heidi Hollenberger**

Project Coordinator

**Becky Hovde**

Project Assistant

To Learn more, visit our  
website

[http://  
www.wdbtap.wi.gov](http://www.wdbtap.wi.gov)

# WDBTAP

## Wisconsin DeafBlind Technical Assistance Project



**Free Services to families  
and educational teams  
working with children  
who are deafblind**

**Putting families in touch  
with each other**

Program funded by US Office of Special Education Programs deafblind technical assistance funds, received by the Department of Public Instruction and WESP-DHH

*Parent Joanne says, "The more education and understanding that we have, the greater is the difference. As we have changed the way we share in his life, the more he opens and is able to participate in life."*

## More about WDBTAP

Wisconsin DeafBlind Technical Assistance Project (WDBTAP) is a federally funded project that offers FREE services to families and educational teams working with individuals, birth through 21 years, who have COMBINED vision AND hearing losses and are currently on the Deafblind Registry.

The project has been designed to tailor services to the specific needs of the individual child/youth and their educational team (including parents).

We offer regional and statewide workshops for parents and professionals as well as parent-specific activities, including an annual family weekend and conference specific to the issues of raising a child with deafblindness.

### WDBTAP Collaborations...

WI Department of Public Instruction, WI Center for Blind/VI Children, WI Educational Services Program for D/HH, DHS (Birth-3, Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing), DWD (DVR), WI FACETS, CESAs, School Districts, County Programs, and the Waisman Center.

*Teacher Kristi writes, "The deeper understanding of deaf blindness, my changed perspective and teaching strategies, and his smiles have reaffirmed my belief in what is 'special' about special education."*

## Who Qualifies for the Deafblind Registry?

Children and youth who have:

- A COMBINATION of vision and hearing losses demonstrated by the results of appropriate test or observational assessment (Note: functional level may vary from mild to severe losses)
- Degenerative disorders that will eventually affect both vision AND hearing
- Multiple disabilities and require specialized adaptations for vision AND hearing
- Infants, toddlers and preschoolers who have a diagnosed condition that puts them *at-risk* for having a COMBINATION of vision AND hearing losses.

### Federal Definition of Deafblindness



Deafblindness means concomitant hearing and visual impairments, the combination of which creates such severe communication and other developmental and educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for children with deafness or children with blindness.

### Who May Request Training?

- ⇒ Parents and Families of eligible children and youth
- ⇒ County Service Agencies
- ⇒ School Districts
- ⇒ Other agencies/organizations serving children or youth who are deafblind

## What Types of Technical Assistance are Available?

- ◆ Assistance in identifying children and youth who are deafblind. An annual census is conducted, but children can be referred to WDBTAP at any time during the year.
- ◆ Assistance in connecting families with one another
- ◆ Referral to relevant local, regional and national agencies
- ◆ Observation, support and hands-on demonstration of recommendations to assist in programming for child or youth
- ◆ Conferencing by telephone or e-mail
- ◆ Information dissemination
- ◆ Training (see below for further details)

## What Training Services are offered?

- ◆ On site workshops, informal demonstration and problem solving sessions
- ◆ Statewide or regional workshops for Service Providers and Families
- ◆ Parent/Family training
- ◆ Intensive Deafblind training series for Paraprofessionals working one-on-one with children/youth who are deafblind

